

FEWER CHILDREN IN MISSOURI

SCHOOL CENSUS SHOWS FALLING OFF OF 6,000 SINCE LAST YEAR.

NO REASON FOR DECREASE

Rural Districts Show Largest Losses With Cities Stationary—Fund Now About Ready for Distribution to Counties.

Jefferson City, Mo.

The school population of Missouri is declining. The loss since 1916 is 6,183. The loss in 1916 from 1914 was 1,132. The school population, as certified by the various county officials, to the state superintendent of public schools is 919,321. The previous year it was 925,504. The loss is largely in the rural districts.

Jackson county, including Kansas City, gained only nine in school population in the last year. Livingston county shows a gain of over 2,000.

The state superintendent of public schools, who apportions the money does not offer any reason for the decline. The enumeration is made by local officials and every county is interested in having every pupil counted, for this means more money, although the money is not now distributed alone on population, as attendance records, salaries paid teachers, and other matters are also considered.

Most of the gains in the rural districts are to be found in Southeast Missouri, with New Madrid, Pemiscot, Dunklin and Cape Girardeau counties leading.

Postmen Pick President.

The Missouri Association of Letter Carriers has just closed its annual session at the capital. Many important matters were considered by the body.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: B. A. Dump of Mora, president; G. G. Stinging of Sturgeon, vice-president; A. N. Lamm of Sedalia, secretary and treasurer.

In a close contest between Warrensburg and Sedalia for the 1918 convention of the association, the former won by a vote of 82 to 72.

Conduct Series of Experiments.

In an effort to increase the wheat crop for the coming year, the state board of agriculture is conducting an educational campaign among the farmers of the state, and has issued bulletins dealing with the essentials of wheat growing. According to statistics gathered by the board, the average yield of wheat for the state from 1905 to 1914 was 14.7 bushels per acre. Missouri is a corn state rather than a wheat state, but the production in 1916 was 24,000,000 bushels.

Four particular points are made in the course of instruction sent out by the board. They are:

1. Destroy the natural home of the fly by plowing deep and early.
2. Keep down all volunteer wheat between plowing time and seeding.
3. Delay seeding until after the fly-free date.
4. Co-operate with neighbors in the practice of the foregoing measures.

Eight Murderers Paroled.

Eight men convicted of murder and serving long sentences in the penitentiary, were paroled by the state prison board, and all of them have been released. One was serving a life sentence, three were sentenced for 99 years, two for 10 years and one for 27 years. In the list are three men who had killed their wives.

State Bills Unpaid.

The governor was advised recently in a letter from N. A. McMillan, president of the St. Louis Clearing House, that between \$500,000 and \$600,000 of the bills left by the last administration have not yet been presented to the National Bank of Commerce for payment. Claims to the extent of \$1,000,000 have been presented and paid. McMillan states that the clearing house will not pay bills presented after September 19.

Save Buying Prison Goods.

The state prison board and the superintendents and boards of managers of the state eleemosynary institutions entered into contracts under which the institutions are to purchase all of the shoes, slippers and clothing needed by the male patients from the state. The number in the institutions total about 3,000. It is expected the goods bought will aggregate \$150,000 a year.

By buying the convict-made goods, which the law requires, the state will save \$1.25 a dozen on overalls, 10 cents a pair on work shoes, 85c a pair on dressing-out shoes and \$2 a suit on clothes.

U. S. Lacks Supplies.

Equipment for arming the home guard troops of Missouri is very limited, according to Attorney General McAllister, who returned from Washington, where he was sent by the Missouri defense council to secure guns, haversacks, canteens, etc., for the home guard units.

"There are about 1,800 Krag-Jorgensen rifles of the model of 1898 and about 700 Springfield rifles available for Missouri home guards," he said. The supplies would not be sufficient for St. Louis alone.

Errors Charged to Bad System.

Accountants connected with the office of State Auditor Hackmann criticized methods of bookkeeping employed in the Industrial School for Girls at Chillicothe, Reformatory for Boys at Booneville and the Industrial School for Negro Girls at Tipton. In their report of an audit of those institutions for 1915 and 1916, just completed.

They assert that in several instances there is disagreement between the amount of the requisition and the amount of the canceled warrants in the Tipton Industrial School, and they set out what purports to be many disagreements.

Miss Jeanette McConachie of Jefferson City, who was secretary of the board of managers of the Tipton institution, said if the accountants had called in Dr. J. B. Norman of Tipton, who was a member of the board and treasurer, that the requisitions and warrants which they mentioned would have been explained to their entire satisfaction.

"The accounts of the institution are absolutely right, but our bookkeeping might not satisfy the accountants."

The accountants criticized the methods of bookkeeping in the Missouri Reformatory and at Chillicothe, and in the latter institution found that a former treasurer had, through error, failed to pay into the state treasury \$121.17 which had been collected by the Chillicothe institution. The money had been collected and deposited without her knowledge, and she had failed to have her book balanced.

The institutions under audit were recently taken under the management of the state prison board, the boards of managers being abolished. Recommendations of the accountants concerning the installation of more complete sets of accounting are made to the state prison board.

To Supply Prison Water.

Governor Gardner has directed the prison board to terminate the contract under which the Capital City Water Co., collects from the penitentiary approximately \$1,000 per month, and to buy and install machinery with which the state itself will supply water to the prison.

The legislature two years ago appropriated \$25,000 for such machinery, but Governor Major vetoed the bill. A driller has offered to install the machinery needed for \$40,000, and accept payment in installments which will not exceed the sums now paid for water for the state.

Cut in State Game Revenue.

Officials of the state game department do not take a rosy view of the outlook for increased revenue in that department. They are of the opinion that it will require the hardest kind of work to maintain the present standard of receipts from the sale of licenses.

Three reasons are assigned for this. The principal one is that enlistments in the national guard, the army and the navy have come from the ranks of Missouri's young men, each of whom was a mighty hunter before the Lord.

Governor's Guard Swears in Officers. Battalion officers of the "governor's guard," as the Jefferson City provisional guard will be officially designated, have been elected and sworn into the service.

They are: Major, Claude L. Clark; captain and battalion adjutant, D. C. Weatherby; captain and quartermaster, Caesar Wollman.

The men, nearly 600 in number, have been mustered into service.

Saunders Will Decline Job.

William F. Saunders, secretary of the Missouri council of defense, has declined the appointment as city registrar of St. Louis, made vacant by the death of the late M. R. H. Witter. "I have taken up the work of the defense council, and believe it is my duty to carry it out. While I appreciate the offer, I cannot accept it."

Required to Accept Owners' Lists.

Attorney General McAllister upset a ruling promulgated by the state tax commission when he held that assessors are without authority to raise the assessment lists returned under oath by the taxpayers without giving them notice.

McAllister's opinion greatly restricts the operations of the tax commission in securing the return of all property in Missouri at its true cash value.

When the assessors met in Jefferson City Chairman Cornelius Roach of the tax commission advised the assessors that the assessor is not bound by the value which the taxpayer puts upon his property in the list.

Authorize Bond Issue.

The Frisco Railroad has obtained authority from the state public service commission to issue \$7,440,000 of prior lien mortgage bonds, bearing 5 percent interest. Of this sum \$5,587,000 is to reimburse the company for money actually expended in the acquisition of equipment and in the general betterment of the line, and \$1,862,000 for refunding obligations secured by the lien.

New Game Commissioner.

Governor Gardner has announced the appointment of Tim Birmingham of St. James as state fish and game commissioner. Birmingham is a close personal and political friend of Frank Farris, and the appointment was made on Farris' recommendation.

Dr. E. H. Bullock, superintendent of the state hospital for the insane at St. Joseph, was appointed Jane Reclamation agent to succeed John H. Nolen, and Porter Williams succeeds Bullock as head of the St. Joseph asylum.

BANNER YEAR FOR MACKEREL

Small Schools of the Fish Have Been Seen Even in New York Harbor, It Is Said.

This is a banner mackerel year, according to the fishermen who have already been at the Grand Banks and brought back huge catches, says a Boston dispatch. "Mackerel to the rescue" is one slogan of the food conservators.

Gloucester fishermen arriving at this port say that enormous schools of mackerel have been moving off Cape Shore, N. S., and a fleet of 40 sailing schooners has been making rich hauls. So tremendous has been the catch that it has been necessary to charter additional steamers at Yarmouth to get the fish to market.

According to Gloucester men the great cold storage plant on the fish pier at Boston has been filled by the mackerel pouring in and there is "no more room in the freezer." Hundreds of tons of frozen mackerel are waiting shipment to the allies.

Small schools of the fish have been seen even in New York harbor and there is likely to be a big harvest of them off the Jersey coast.

Has Second Two-Cent Piece Coined.

The second two-cent piece ever coined in the United States is owned by Henry F. Merrill of Albany, Ore. Mr. Merrill also has a one-cent piece, coined in 1793, said to be the first year pennies were coined by the United States.

Mr. Merrill received the historic two-cent piece from his grandfather, the late Joseph Failing of Portland. Mr. Failing was attending the Republican national convention which renominated President Lincoln, in 1864, and while on his eastern trip visited the Philadelphia mint. The new coins were being minted for the first time.

The first one made was preserved for the government's collection, according to custom, and the second was given to Mr. Failing by the director of the mint, who happened to be a friend of his.

Grumbles of the Farmers.

Farmers in Sussex county, Delaware, report that the caterpillars are killing the leaves on the apple trees, snails are damaging the roots of the cucumbers, moles are killing off the potato plants, wild garlic is spoiling the milk, cool nights are retarding the growth of vegetables, the grape-berry worm is boring into the grapes, cutworms are killing the tomato vines, wet weather has damaged the strawberries, the cultivation of the corn crop is being retarded by the wet fields and the rust is in the wheat. Outside of these few things, says the Philadelphia Ledger, Sussex county is all right and will raise big crops.

From Out of the Skies.

Joe Flaherty, the tallest prisoner who ever fell into the hands of the local authorities, was arrested by Policeman Tom Edmunds, the shortest man on the force, after Flaherty is alleged to have frightened a number of women with whom he came in contact while pursuing an alcoholic course along Park avenue.

Edmunds caught sight of the offender about a block away and gave chase. "You're pinched," he yelled up at his captive.

"Well, leave go of my knees and reach up and take my hand," hiccupped Flaherty.—Anaconda Standard.

Heavy Picture Frames Passing.

Picture-framing in Great Britain has undergone many transformations in recent years. The building of smaller houses made obsolete the fashion of heavy frames which were the pride of Victorian dining rooms. There are patterns of the Charles II. and the Louis periods which by their merit in design have escaped destruction, and have served as models for frames made out of "composition." Old frames of baser design have been burned that gold in the old gilding might be salvaged.

Her Greatest Disappointment.

Miss Louise says the biggest disappointment that can come into a girl's life is the discovery that the fellow she really cares for hasn't any more sense than to believe she means it when she tells him that if he dares make another attempt to kiss her she'll never speak to him again.—Macon Telegraph.

A Modest Request.

Plausible Tramp (in suburbs) — "Lady, I ain't beggin', but can I hang around till yer dawg's done with that 'er bone?"

The Italian army has surprised the world. But the Austrians received most of the shock.

In the back yard garden the man with the hoe is ably assisted by the man with the hose.

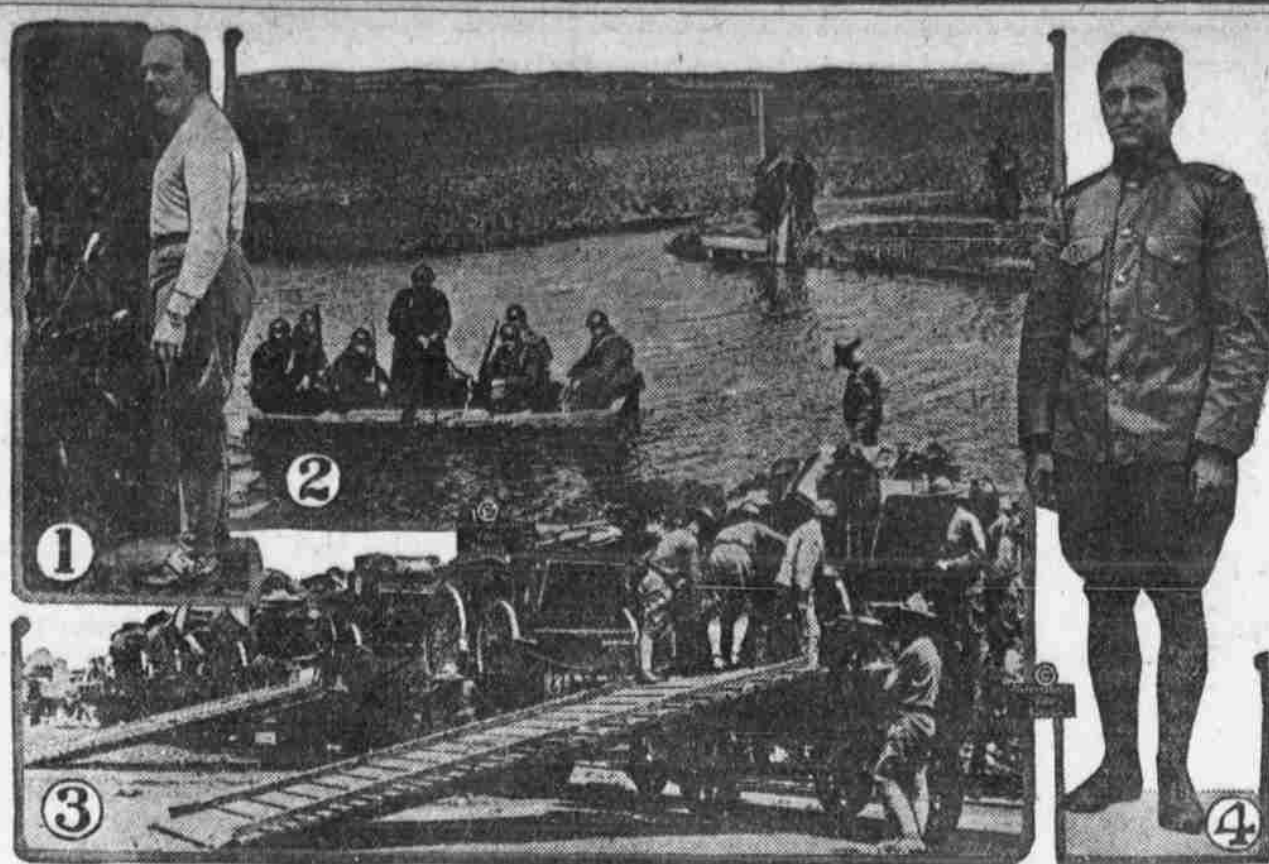
The rule is that every man is entitled to have his own opinion, though it isn't worth much.

MISCELLANEOUS MARKETS.

St. Louis.—Hay—Timothy, No. 1 to choice, \$24@25; other grades less, while alfalfa and clover mixed are steady at slightly lower prices.

Potatoes—Early Ohio cobbles, \$1.55 @1.75; inferior stock, 25@30c less. Eggs—Firsts, current receipts, 30@31c; seconds, 1c less; 1/2c off for foreign.

Butter—Extra creamery, 40c; first, 35c; second, 35c; packing stock, 32c.



1—Michel Jacobs, well-known Washington artist, who is lecturing at the officers' training camp at Fortress Monroe on camouflage. 2—Belgian soldiers crossing one of the many canals in their country in a ferry barge. 3—American soldiers in France loading a train with their equipment. 4—F. Trubee Davison, son of H. P. Davison, national director of the Red Cross, who was seriously injured when his airplane fell into Long Island sound.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

Food Control Bill, Giving the President Extraordinary Powers, Now Is Law.

GETTING AFTER PROFITEERS

Government Predicts Record-Breaking Corn Crop—German and Russian Ministries Re-Formed—Elihu Root Returns With Confidence in the Russian Republic.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

The senate last Wednesday adopted the conference report on the food control bill, the measure was signed by Speaker Clark and President Wilson, and is now the law of the land, a law conferring on the president tremendous powers over the food and fuel supplies of the country, and designed to protect the people from extortion. Sixty-six senators voted for the bill and seven against it. Those who persisted in their obstructionist tactics to the end were France, Gronna, Hollis, Hardwick, La Follette, Penrose and Reed. Sherman and Gore both were paired against the bill.

The law contains drastic prohibitions. Thirty days after the date of its approval it will be unlawful to use foodstuffs in the manufacture of distilled beverages or to import distilled spirits for beverage purposes, and the president will be empowered to commandeer for military purposes distilled liquors now held in bond and to regulate or restrict the use of foods in the manufacture of wine and beer.

The senate also adopted the conference report on the food survey bill, designed to stimulate production and to give the country information on food resources, and thus the administration's food control program was at last completed.

Coal Prices and Profits.

Coal prices are causing a great stir, especially in the Middle West, and in Illinois the state council of defense advised Governor Lowden to seize the mines because the operators would not sell at what was considered a reasonable profit. The governors and defense councils of 15 Middle West States were asked to meet in Chicago to confer on relief measures.

President Wilson last week made a personal visit to the federal trade commission and the department of justice to urge the hastening of action to curb high prices, and made it evident that he intends to do everything in his power to stop the exacting of exorbitant profits. The war industries board followed up this by announcing that American producers selling war necessities to America's allies would be permitted to make only reasonable profits, provided that the allies must reciprocate in selling to the United States and to one another. The president, moreover, has said that the prices to the public must be made the same as to the government.

Record-Breaking Corn Crop.

Cheering news came out of the department of agriculture in the form of the August crop report, which indicates a corn crop of 3,191,000,000 bushels, the largest in the history of the country. The prospects improved during July to the extent of 68,000,000 bushels, and general rains over the corn belt since the reception of the data on which the report is based enhance still further the expectations of the farmers. The oats yield also will be a record breaker, but the report on wheat is a bit disappointing. The government already has under way a campaign for the raising next season of a crop of more than a billion bushels of wheat and 83,000,000 bushels of rye. The food control law authorizes the fixing of fair prices for wheat and the sale by the government to the

farmers of nitrate of soda from Chile to be used as fertilizer. Every state is asked to plant as large an acreage in wheat and rye as is possible without upsetting proper farm practice. The experts in Washington say that while fertilizer may be scarce, there will be no shortage of seed, farm machinery or transportation facilities.

On Thursday Provost Marshal General Crowder issued the regulations for calling the National army to the colors. The first 200,000 are to be called up to September 1 and sent to cantonment camps by September 5. The government wishes the first day of the mobilization appropriately celebrated throughout the country in order that the citizen soldiers may be fittingly honored.

Some Antidraft Riots.

Taking the country as a whole, the exemption boards are having mighty little trouble in carrying out their duties in the drafting of the National army. Part of Oklahoma and some districts in the Southeast, however, are glaring exceptions to this rule. Serious riots have occurred and bands of draft resisters have armed themselves and taken to the woods. But they are being captured by the score and subjected to the proper punishment. Much of the trouble is stirred up by the I. W. W., and by certain un-American publicists who argue constantly that American soldiers should not be sent abroad to fight, but should be kept at home to await the invading Germans after they have whipped the entente allies.

Among those arrested last week by the federal agents was Dr. Fritz Bergmeier, president of the Volks-Zeitung of St. Paul. On orders from Washington he was put in jail on charges of making disloyal utterances, to be held until President Wilson directs his release. He is an enemy alien.

Canada also is to have a drafted army, the Canadian conscription bill having been passed by the dominion parliament. Under its provisions 100,000 men between the ages of twenty and thirty-two years will be drafted, and it is the expectation of the authorities that they will be in training by autumn.

German Ministry Changes.

Chancellor Michaelis remolded the imperial and Prussian ministries to his desire, or that of his masters, but the many changes aroused no semblance of enthusiasm in the empire. On the contrary, they are commented on by the liberal and radical press with distrust and dissatisfaction, and no one who has talked for publication has given them his approval. They offer no hope for parliamentarism or any other marked change in internal policies, and so far as can be seen, the war policy of Germany is not likely to be altered. Doctor Kuehlmann, who has succeeded Zimmermann as foreign secretary, is supposed to be opposed to ruthless submarine warfare, but Doctor Helfferich is retained as the representative of the imperial chancellor, and as he is ambitious and powerful it is feared he will more than counterbalance Kuehlmann.

Germany's latest peace suggestions having met with the disdainful reception they deserved, it is unlikely that any more such proposals will emanate from the kaiser for some time. Seventy-eight professors of Bonn university have signed a petition urging the German government never to make another peace offer.

Root Has Confidence in Russia.

Premier Kerensky last week succeeded in completing his coalition cabinet and obtained the pledges of all factions that they would support him. He has promised many reforms, and also has assured Russia that discipline and authority must first be restored. That he and his colleagues will win out and that Russia will continue in the war until Germany is whipped is the confident assurance of Elihu Root who has just returned from his mission to Petrograd. The disorders there, he says, are not alarmingly serious and are not typical, and the loss of morale in the army he is sure is only temporary.

Already the resistance of the Russian troops to the advance of the Germans and Austrians in Galicia and Bukovina is stiffening, and though in general the retreat continued, it ceased to be a

route and in some instances the Teutons were thrown back. General Korniloff, who succeeded Brussiloff as generalissimo, says the first stage of the war is over and the second stage has opened, and intimates that the Russian armies will yet give an excellent account of themselves if British and French officers are sent to help drill the millions of men under arms. They will need this help, he says, if they must meet the massed Germans instead of the comparatively weak Austrians.

On the Western Front.

Activities in Flanders during the week indicated that the allies were following their usual course—attack, consolidation of positions won, and preparations for another attack. The heavy rains hampered operations considerably, but the British made many trench raids and toward the end of the week their artillery fire increased to a tremendous volume. Meanwhile, the Canadian troops pushed up close to Lens and had that important coal center nearly surrounded.

The German resistance in the coastal region is powerful, for the commanders of course realize how dangerous to them is the turning movement. Along the Chemin des Dames the crown prince continued his attacks, all of which were beaten off by the indomitable Frenchmen.

In the Asian fields of combat there was little doing last week, but it was reported that General von Falkenhayn, now German commander in Turkey, is planning an attempt to recapture Bagdad. General Maude's Mesopotamian army, however, is now so strongly entrenched that it has little to fear, and the same may be said of the British forces in Sinai, which also have the support of the fleet.

European dispatches say that the high military authorities in France believe the war will last through the winter and spring, at least, and that the policy of the allies will be to hammer away at the Teuton lines continually and wear the enemy down as much as possible until America gets on the field in full strength. Then the advantage of numbers will be with them to so great extent that victory by force of arms will be in sight.

American Troops to Russia?

Senator Lewis of Illinois declared last week that the next big contingent of American troops would be sent to Russia, which would be surprising in view of the fact that Russia now has under arms more men than she can handle effectively. The Samnites now in France are proving themselves quick pupils and have won the praise and admiration of the British and French officers who are instructing them in the methods of modern warfare. They are happy and eager to get into action but are waiting for American tobacco.

In England is another big contingent of American troops—made up mostly from the operating and construction divisions of American railways. They will be ready to rebuild and operate the roads in France and to fight, too, if necessary, and in preparation for this are receiving intensive training in a peaceful English way.

The navy department has made another change of policy, dropping the construction of the small U-boat chasers and concentrating on the production of destroyers, which are to be turned out in great numbers. They seem to be the most efficient enemy of the submarine.

Argentina, dissatisfied with the progress of negotiations growing out of the sinking of the Argentine steamer Monte Protegido by a German submarine, has sent a peremptory note to Berlin, demanding a clear and final reply within a reasonable time. Liberia, which some time ago severed relations with the central powers, has now declared war against them. This, like the action of Siam, means that the diplomatic representatives of the small nations have made up their minds as to which group of belligerents will gain the ultimate victory. What perhaps has angered Argentina most is the recent discovery of an extensive German espionage system.

China, too, has decided to cast in her lot with the allies and the cabinet resolved to declare war on Germany and Austria-Hungary; the assistance of the great oriental nation is far from negligible.